COMIX WAVE 43. © Clay Geerdes, Box 7081, Berkeley, CA 94707. October, 1986. All Rights Reserved. Logo from Dr. Seuss' THE CAT IN THE HAT COMES BACK. © Dr. Seuss, 1958. This issue is dedicated to Theodor Seuss Geisel.* Par Holman, David Miller, and I were walking through Balboa Park in San Diego and when we left the arboretum and walked through an archway, we looked up and saw a giant drawing of the cat in the hat atop the San Diego Museum of Art. This meant Dr. Seuss was somewhere in the vicinity and when we got closer we saw that the museum was featuring a showing of the original art of himself. Ironic that the three of us who love that cartooning style should come across this event at this time. We bought tickets and spent the next hour or so walking around inside a long and varied cartooning career, one that spanned over 50 years and included work for Dartmouth's college humor mag, JACK O' LANTERN, covers for various issues of JUDGE, political cartoons of World War II, and 43 children's books from AND TO THINK I SAW IT ON MULBERRY STREET (1937, his first) to YOU'RE ONLY OLD ONCE (1986, his latest), a truly beautiful, informative, educational exhibit, one which not only gave a concise portrait of the man, but clarified his working techiques for the comic art student. Here, in chronological order were layouts for classics like THE 500 HATS OF BARTHOLOMEW CUBBINS (1938), BARTHOLOMEW AND THE OOBLECK (1949), and GREEN EGGS AND HAM (1960). Here were unusual items like the braille edition of THE CAT IN THE HAT COMES BACK, made of felt and cotton with a plastic spiral binding (11 1/16 x 10 inches), a blow-up from the cultic film, THE 5000 FINGERS OF DR. T. (1951-52), and the originals of most of Dr. Seuss' political cartoons and ad designs.

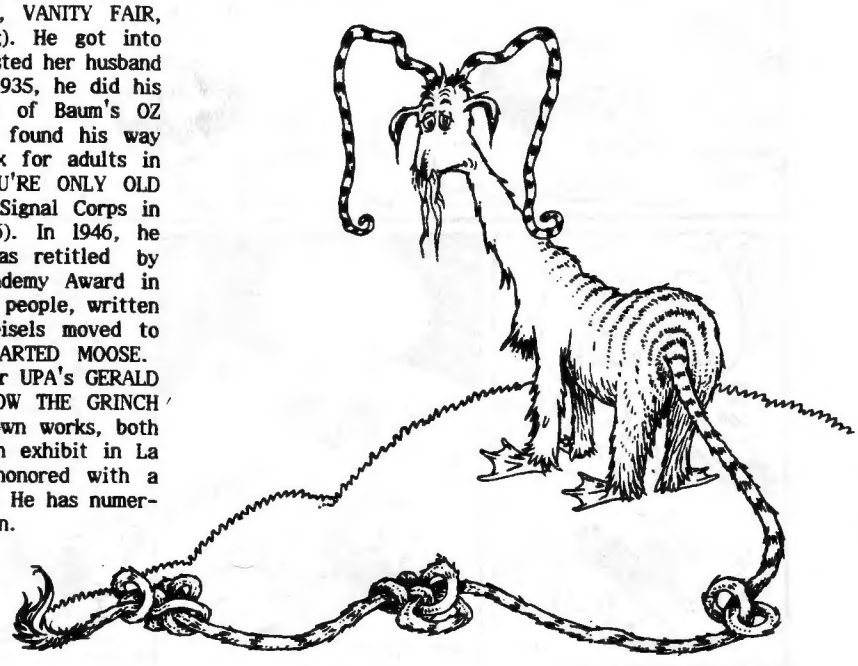
Theodor Seuss Geisel was born March 2, 1904, in Springfield, Massachusetts. He went to Dartmouth in 1922, where he spent a lot of time cartooning, a preoccupation which lead to his appointment as editor-in-chief of the humor mag, JACK O'LANTERN. He graduated from Dartmouth in 1925 and went to Lincoln College, Oxford, England, but the lectures bored him and he wound up travelling around Europe for a couple of years. He returned to the U.S. in 1927, the year Charles Lindbergh made his historical flight from New York to Paris. In New York, he freelanced, selling cartoons to JUDGE, COLLEGE HUMOR, LIBERTY, VANITY FAIR, and LIFE (the humor mag, which preceded the 1936 picture mag). He got into advertising when an exec's wife saw one of his drawings and suggested her husband hire him for a campaign. in 1931, he did BONERS for Viking. In 1935, he did his one and only cartoon strip, HEJJI, for Hearst. Strong influence of Baum's OZ books there and elsewhere in Dr. Seuss' work. By 1937, he had found his way into children's lit with MULBERRY STREET, but he did do a book for adults in 1939 (THE SEVEN LADY GODIVAS), and his most recent book, YOU'RE ONLY OLD ONCE is more for adults than children. Geisel was in the Army Signal Corps in WW2 and he made educational films during that period (1943-46). In 1946, he did a film for the army called YOUR JOB IN GERMANY. This was retitled by Warner Brothers to HITLER LIVES and it got Seuss his first Academy Award in 1946. He received his second in 1947 for a history of the Japanese people, written with his wife, Helen Palmer Geisel, DESIGN FOR DEATH. The Geisels moved to La Jolla in 1948 and Dr. Seuss published THIDWICK THE BIG-HEARTED MOOSE. Dr. Seuss got still another Academy Award in 1951 for the script for UPA's GERALD McBOING BOING. 1957 was the banner year for Seuss who did HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS and THE CAT IN THE HAT, certainly his best known works, both of which are on video. In 1976-77, Dr. Seuss' originals were on exhibit in La Jolla at the Museum of Contemporary Art. In 1981, Seuss was honored with a Dr. Seuss Day on his 77th birthday in 7 states, including California. He has numerous honorary degrees, the latest a Doctor of Fine Arts from Princeton.

This showing will travel, so write down these names and places: 10 Jan to 1 Mar 1987, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA; 18 July to 30 Aug, 1987, The New York Public Library; 5 Dec 1987 to 17 Jan 1988 at the Baltimore Museum of Art; and 13 Feb to 10 April 1988 - New Orleans Museum of Art.

DR. SEUSS' WORLD

But it isn't too late to make one little change.
A Sleigh and an ELEPHANT! There's something strange!

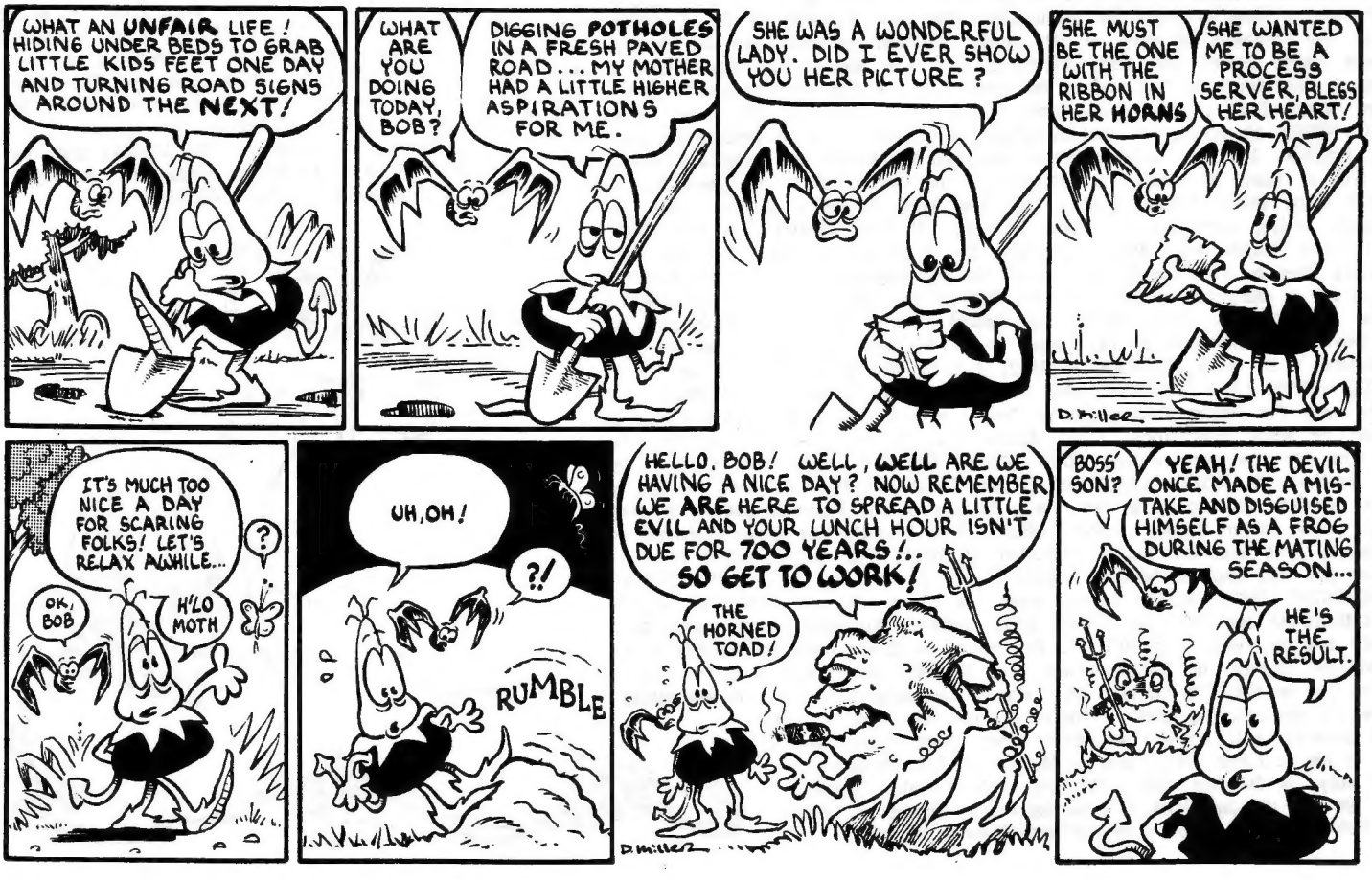
Ah, but there are no such things as Sneetches and Grinches, no Lorax, no Oobleck falling from the sky--WRONG! There WERE no such things before Dr. Seuss called them into being, but today these characters and things are as common as peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Dr. Seuss wrote many of his books in verse, often filling out a rhyme with a nonsense word a la Lear or Carroll. His technique was foreshadowed in his first children's book, AND TO THINK THAT I SAW IT ON MULBERRY STREET. Little Marco is walking along Mulberry when he sees a horse and wagon, but this is routine and in a moment he has imagined a zebra pulling the wagon, then a charioteer driving it and it isn't long before a whole parade of Seussian animals has passed along Mulberry, but when Marco gets home he tells his dad that he saw nothing but "a plain horse and wagon on Mulberry Street," because he knows adults are serious and cannot participate in a child's fantasy life. Dr. Seuss' father was a zoo keeper and young Ted spent some of his time looking at the animals and improving them with his cartoon-oriented mind. His later drawing style comes from that of men like Rube Goldberg, George Harriman, and Bill Holman. Making up fantasy places and characters would have been second nature to a child raised on the OZ books of Lyman Frank Baum and Ruth Plumly Thompson. A story like BARTHOLOMEW AND THE OOBLECK would fit neatly into an OZ book. King Derwin of Didd is tired of snow and rain and the boring annual things that fall from the sky and he orders his magicians to come up with something new. What comes about is a greenish goo called oobleck which sticks to everything and makes a mess of King Derwin's kingdom. The oobleck evaporates and melts away when the King is persuaded to say the magic words "I'm sorry," by his page, Bartholomew Cubbins. These words are always said by Ruggedo, the Nome King, but only after he has tried to take over the Emerald City of OZ and make all the people his slaves. The excess of greedy kings and rulers is always punished by good children's writers like Baum and Dr. Seuss. The good doctor's technique was to cast a new character, then define it with a line of poetry and a drawing. A couple of bored little kids sit in the window looking out at the rain when who should come in but The Cat In the Hat, a magical entertainer par excellence a la the Harlequin Hare from THE BUTTERFLY BALL AND GRASSHOPPERS FEAST (1807). Like Travers' Mary Poppins, the cat makes a game out of cleaning up everything with fantasy characters like Thing One and Thing Two and with a marvelous machine that would have made Goldberg and Holman smile. Always whimsical, Dr. Seuss often deals with serious themes like ecology (THE LORAX) and the arms race (THE BUTTER BATTLE BOOK), remaining all the while in the realm of childhood. -CLAY GEERDES



BOSS SAYS YOU GOTTA SCARE FOLKS, HUH?
YEAH, IT'S MY JOB... BOO!
GES-UND-HEIT!
WATCH THIS IT'LL BE A REAL EASY ONE.... BOO!
H'LO, FRIEND! NASTY COUGH YOU GOT THERE. COVER YOUR MOUTH YOU'RE SPREADING GERMS!
MANNERS ARE WHAT SEPARATE US FROM THE HEATHENS.
MAYBE YOU COULD PUT IN FOR A JOB TRANSFER?
D.Miller

COMIX PLUGOLA

$2 will get you COMIX IN A CAPSULE BY LUNA TICKS, 4 trank sized funnies. 424 S 45 St., Phila, PA 19104.* Latest COMIX WAVE minis: SURROUNDED AND FRIGHTENED (Brad Foster cover , insides by Howard, Hardman, Sloane, Dissmeyer, & Bob Vojtko); REVENGE OF THE JORKS (Chris Bors); THE RETROS (John Jones); and FRIED BRAINS 22 (William Dockery solo). 50¢/22¢ stamp each.* FIVE MINUTE ROMANCE 1 is 25¢/stamp from Carole Sobocinski, 536 West Addison, Chicago, IL 60613.* EMOTIONAL VOMIT and ROTTED VISION 3 are 50¢/stamp each from M. Schafer, 75 Fairview Ave, 3-B, New York, N Y 10040.* Susan Catherine's OVERHEARD AT AMERICA'S LUNCH COUNTERS 5 is $3 fro Cherry Stone Press, 4715 16th NE, Seattle, WA 98109.* FAN'TOONS 11, the funny animal issue is $2 from Edd Vick, 3045 Park Lane, #1039, Dallas, TX 75220.* EYE-DULL OF MILLIONS is 50¢/22¢ stamp from Par Holman, 1097 Ea Webster Dr., Sandy, UT, 84070. And from the same artist: BARELY TRUE WAR STORIES, DZ, 50¢/stamp.* AMAZING OFF-BEAT GLOWING STICK-FIGURE SAMURAI TRANSFORMING ROBOT ALIEN YOUNGSTER MUTANTS is 25¢/stamp from Dimestore Productions, 17914 N Inlet Dr., Strongsville, OH 44136.* EBOLG 1 is 50¢/st from P. D. Wilson, 3720 17th Ave, Columbus, GA 31904.* THE FATHOS 1 and SHAMAN 41 are 50¢/st ea from William Dockery, 3226 River Ave, Columbus, GA 31904.* Pizz has illustrated a series of mini-comix for Big Daddy Roth. SMALL BLOCKS FOR BIG KIDS, FUN WITH MR. 4 SPEED, HEMI AND YOU, MEISTER MOUSE, HISTORY OF CARS, JUNKYARD ADVENTURE, GOZZILLA AND BLACK BOX, AND ENCYCLOPEDIA FOR WIMPS. The ad I have is unclear about the price, so get one of them for 75¢ from Pizz, 626 Temple St., Long Beach, Ca 90814, and ask him about the rest.* SLAM BANG 5 is $1.25/.39¢ stamp from Fan-Atic Press, 125 Laralan Ave., Frankfort, KY 40601. Allen Freeman and the Hutchison Bros.* THE FUNNIES PAPER 21, a strip zine, is $1/.39 from 1494 Wing Foot Way, Norcross, GA 30093.* POOT! 9 is $1.39 from Bob Sheridan, 10922 Fortune Ave., Cleveland, OH 44111.* Dave and Jeff Tompkins have two issues of HANK STORIES (DZ). Send $1.39 for both. 272 Fern St., W. Hartford, CT 06119.* CARPATHIAN CUT-UPS 1 is $1.39 from Automatic Graphics, 9617 Robin NE, Albuquerque, N M 87112. Text by Klaus Haisch, art by Randy Clark.* TALES OF JERRY 4 is $2.50 from Jane Oliver, 244 S. A St., Santa Rosa, CA 95401. standard 32 pp comic book.* The paperback edition of Robert Williams' ZOMBIE MYSTERY PAINTINGS will sell for $11.95 (and $2.40 post and handling) from Blackthorne Press, 786 Blackthorne Avenue, El Cajon, CA 92020. 40 paintings are included. Color plates. This is a satirical work, Williams at his best.* Bruce Duncan's new address is B.E.F.P., 2425 College Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704, for those who want to write for his latest listing.* Mr. VERLIN'S ZONO COMIX 5, 6, & 7 are 8½ x 11 zines containing some interesting artwork of the Foster/Roden style. Send Rik Livingston a couple of dollars for a sample. 2136 California #17, San Francisco, CA 94115.* The MORTY THE DOG comic book is $1 from Starhead Comix, POB 30044, Seattle, WA 98103.* Kenny Moran's new one is NEBULA 2. 244 Balmoral St., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 1X6, CANADA. $2.39.* Some strong sex and violence in EL VIBORA 78, still the outstanding Spanish comic book. $7 from J.M. Berengueur, Plaza Beatas 3, Barcelona, SPAIN.*


WHAT AN UNFAIR LIFE! HIDING UNDER BEDS TO GRAB LITTLE KIDS FEET ONE DAY AND TURNING ROAD SIGNS AROUND THE NEXT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TODAY, BOB?
DIGGING POTHOLES IN A FRESH PAVED ROAD... MY MOTHER HAD A LITTLE HIGHER ASPIRATIONS FOR ME.
SHE WAS A WONDERFUL LADY. DID I EVER SHOW YOU HER PICTURE?
SHE MUST BE THE ONE WITH THE RIBBON IN HER HORNS
SHE WANTED ME TO BE A PROCESS SERVER, BLESS HER HEART!
D. Miller
IT'S MUCH TOO NICE A DAY FOR SCARING FOLKS! LET'S RELAX AWHILE...
?
OK, BOB
H'LO MOTH
UH, OH!
?!
RUMBLE
HELLO, BOB! WELL, WELL ARE WE HAVING A NICE DAY? NOW REMEMBER WE ARE HERE TO SPREAD A LITTLE EVIL AND YOUR LUNCH HOUR ISN'T DUE FOR 700 YEARS!.. SO GET TO WORK!
THE HORNED TOAD!
D. Miller
BOSS' SON?
YEAH! THE DEVIL ONCE MADE A MISTAKE AND DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A FROG DURING THE MATING SEASON...
HE'S THE RESULT.